

# Men Make Houses; Women Make Homes

## Christmastide as It Was in the Beginning

Christmas is a day of gifts. The custom of exchanging presents is much older than Christmas, and means much less. As the Magi came bearing gifts, so do we also—gifts that relieve want; gifts that are sweet and fragrant with friendship; gifts that breathe love; gifts that mean service, gifts inspired, still by the star which shone over the city of David nearly two thousand years ago.

Alfred Tennyson writes in regard to Christmas customs that "the old order changeth, yielding place to new," and the truth of his observation is noted when one considers that the feast of Christmas, from being a period of high ceremonial and public celebration, has tamed away into a time of domestic union and social festivity.

The Lord of Miracle. In the old times so important was Christmas that in every great household of England and Scotland there was appointed, with considerable prerogatives, a ruler or king to direct the Christmas revels. The motto of the court Lord of Miracle was "semper foranum," always keeping holiday, and his crest was the horn bun.

Along with his reign comes the memory of the hummers or players, who went from house to house on Christmas Eve, giving a rude performance called mystery, the old-time Christmas games and the old-time dances with their intricate figures of "two singles on the left, two on the right, three doubles, a traverse of six round, a figure of eight, three singles broken down, two doubles and then honor."

January the First. Horatio Nelson Powers describes the New Year as: "A flower unblown, a book unread, A tree with fruit unharvested, A wondrous fountain yet unsealed, A casket with its gifts concealed—This is the year that for you waits Beyond to-morrow's mystic gates."

Throughout every English county New Year's eve was always celebrated. In many it was called Singing Eve, because the last of the Christmas carols were sung then. A curious local name for New Year's eve a century and a half ago was "Scrutiny Night." In Merton College, Oxford, all the college servants delivered up their keys to the warden and the worthy servants received them again with a Latin address.

The Methodist "Watch Night" and the singing of the old year out and the new year in are present American observances of New Year's eve. An old Dutch custom has survived in the making of calls on New Year's Day, probably the only distinct Dutch custom that came into widespread use in the United States.

Last Day of Christmas tide. An old Twelfth Night carol goes after this fashion: "Three Kings the King of Kings three gifts did bring: Myrrh, incense, gold—as a Man, God and King. Three holy gifts be likewise given by thee."

To Christ even such as acceptable be: For myrrh, tears; for frankincense, impart Submissive prayers; for pure gold, a pure heart."

Twelfth in number of days after Christmas, January 12, is the climax of the season's festivities. The character as a popular festival, Twelfth Day stands only inferior to Christmas. The only distinct Dutch custom that came into widespread use in the United States.

The earliest reference to Shakespeare's comedy, "Twelfth Night," is found in a manuscript diary of John Mannington, a member of the Middle Temple, London, which is preserved in the British Museum. The passage reads thus: "February 2, 1601—At our Night, or What You Will."

And so the actual play called "Twelfth Night" was had on the night of the happy benches, barriers and students first listened to that joyous and exhilarating play, full of the truest and most beautiful humors, especially fitted for a season of cordial mirthfulness, is still standing, and we may walk into that stately hall and think: "How Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' was acted in the Christmas of 1601."

Hanging of the Stocking. It is told that a long time ago the hanging of stockings over the Yuletide log originated in Scandinavia. The story has it that a maiden fair sat one Christmas Eve beside the chimney place, silently wishing for enough "shen cloth" to fashion into a wedding gown. Her glances strayed

over the Yule log placed ready for the lighting from last year's brand, the maiden sat, silently wishing, while the sun went down and lengthening shadows darkened the room.

Suddenly down the chimney came a glimmering forest sprite, and standing on the Yule log he sang in answer to the maiden's silent wish: "Wishing, wishing in the Yule log's name—"

Keep wishing thy stockings full; Answer will come over the Yule log's flame.

Keep wishing thy stockings full! When the maiden leaned forward the better to behold the sprite, he disappeared up the chimney as fantastically and uncannily as he came down. Although the maiden was astounded with wonder and fear, she did not forget the sprite's admonition. In the somberness of a twilight room she took the slippers and stockings from her feet and hung the stockings on the chimneypiece, over the Yule log. Then she fled from the room, quite afraid of the forest sprite, yet half-way trusting him to father her wish and fetch the shen cloth to the chimneypiece before Christmas dawn.

In the very early Christmas dawn the maiden fair stole down to the chimneyplace and there, sure enough, both stockings hung, full of a silken fabric that was generous measure for a wedding gown. So down to the room she went, and the stockings are hung on Christmas Eve, only custom has become more modest, as now one stocking suffices for the "wishing full."

## Fashionable Perfumes

The newest concept in perfumes appears in tiny bottles almost small enough to be carried in the glove, holding concentrated perfumes put up without alcohol, and, in consequence, so very powerful that the fraction of a drop will be sufficient. Owing to the minute quantity required, one of these small bottles will last as long as another five times the size where alcohol is included, the perfume being of the purest, most exquisite quality. Among sweet extracts in this form is a lily of the valley, which comes in a tiny cut glass bottle, housed in a scarlet-lined case of French ivory. Another, housed in a pretty mother-of-pearl box, is a bouquet perfume and almost impossible to describe, but compellingly sweet and very new.

The world of flowers both East and West is being ransacked for its choicest blooms, and every week some new combination of perfumes or single floral odors makes its claim for recognition. Two out of all the latter have climbed to the highest pinnacle of favor, the lily already mentioned and the rose, queen of flowers. In the latter odor comes a series of preparations difficult to equal and impossible to excel.

Covered with Pink Satin. The soap, powder box and sachet are covered with pink satin, while the extract fills a lovely cut glass bottle, labeled in gold and daintily stoppered. Entirely sweet and refined, as well as these single flower perfumes, appealing always to the fastidious woman; and other less simple types of woman-kind find their personality better expressed by one of the exquisite composite essences.

Toilet Cream indispensable. Toilet cream is among the indispensable furnishings of the toilet table. It should cleanse, soften, heal, as well as combine building qualities for the tissues if possible. Several such preparations do, but none is better than one perfumed with violets. After morning or evening use, as well as after motor or taking part in any outing where the skin has been exposed to dust, dirt or the elements, either of the two mentioned preparations should be used: it has also been found helpful to rub a dry cream into the skin before sun exposure, as the fills the pores, thus shutting out dust by forming a protective veil. As dry creams are absorbed by the skin they are not in the least apparent, if they are well rubbed in.

Beauty Essentials. Among beauty essentials must be reckoned a wholesome skin and good complexion, for not even the Venus of Milo, were she to come to life, could be beautiful with a muddy complexion or pimply skin. The first requisite for beauty is the exquisite cleanliness of the whole body, and the bath should be the beginning of each day. Use only the purest soap, but in generous quantity, great care being taken, however, to rinse it off thoroughly before leaving the tub, as the soap if left on the skin clogs the pores.



SMART EFFECTS IN THE SEPARATE BLOUSE

—VOGUE.

## Decorated With American Cross of Honor.

All American women must feel proud of the achievements of Ida Lewis, the heroine of Lime Rock Light, who, during her fifty-three years of service, has saved twenty-three lives, been recognized for her service in the cause of humanity all over the world, and decorated by Congress with the American Cross of Honor.

Lime Rock Lighthouse is at the entrance of Newport Harbor. When Ida Lewis was a child, her father was crippled and her mother already being an invalid, she took upon herself the care of the light in addition to the cooking, washing and ironing, the keeping of the house sweet and clean, the cultivation of a little flower garden and regular attendance at her church, in which she has never failed. She was officially recognized as the Keeper of the Light in 1879, after the death of her father.

When she was only eighteen years of age, she saved the lives of four students whose boats had overturned. In the same year, 1863, she rescued a soldier from Fort Adams, and during the next year, three shepherders and two sailors. The Life Saving Benevolent Association of New York, presented Miss Lewis with a medal in recognition of a daring exploit during a severe storm in 1869, when she rescued two men, and Congress bestowed on her the Life Saving medal of the United States of America when she saved the lives of two troopers from Fort Adams, in 1881. Her last recorded act of heroism was her rescue from drowning of five young girls who had gone

out in a row boat in the moonlight, and had their boat upset in the wash of the steamer Commodore.

The Lighthouse where Miss Lewis presides is more like a comfortable country home than anything else. Its big kitchen boasts more of beauty than most parlors, there being room in it for her cocker spaniel, Dewey, and her cat, Daisy. Her boat is suggestive by name of her good works, for it is called "The Rescue." Miss Lewis is known and loved by all the people in Newport, cottagers and permanent residents, by all the seafaring folk, by the soldiers at Fort Adams, and the men at the Newport Naval Training School. All have a good word and a kind thought for this self-respecting type of American womanhood who, though possessing the distinction of being the only member of her sex in the United States to wear the American cross of honor, is as modest as she is heroic, and no less a home-keeper and maker, though for years she has been the Keeper of the Light, and a rescuer of many from the perils of the deep.

### WHERE WIVES AND MOTHERS CO-OPERATE.

Alexander Hume Ford, in The New Idea, Woman's Magazine for January, has a most interesting article on conditions in Australasia, where wives and mothers co-operate in government affairs, and where Mr. Ford says woman has seen to it that the tourist and health resort departments are the best

conducted of any, and that in travel as in everything else in Australasia, the pocket, comfort and safety of women are made of equal importance with those of men.

It is, Mr. Ford continues, to New Zealand that credit must be accorded for teaching travel like education. The women of this New Dominion have seen to it that the government travel and health resort bureau do their work completely. Government trails and roads have been cut and, at intervals of every ten miles on these trails and roads, a government rest house has been built.

The rest house, as described by Mr. Ford, contains a main building with a woman's dormitory, family apartments and a dining room. A dormitory for men is usually located in a separate building. Fire is provided at the rest houses and women can prepare their own meals, or pay fifty cents for having them furnished. The charge for lodging is fifty cents.

As the travel idea has grown, Mr. Ford points out that hotels have been built by the government, but that the charges at these are moderate, a dollar and a half or less. It is often nothing for the women of New Zealand demand that the government take care of the health of the mother. So half rates at the hotels are given those whose pay will not admit of more, and transportation is provided at nominal rates.

Altogether, concludes Mr. Ford, New Zealand has gained much in many ways from womanly governmental co-operation.

## Debutantes' Dance Gowns

The intermingling of chiffon with crepe de chine, crepe meteor and satins represents the choice in dance gown materials of the debutantes of this season, who have an eye to the becoming effect of such combinations. Pink, blue and white have a genuine vogue, along with pale yellow and light shades of cerise and green, each and all being chosen with reference to coloring and to harmonize with the hair and eyes of blonde or brunette.

Draped Skirts. Satin skirts are draped with chiffon, the drapery extending only to the knees in front. On the sides it falls in scarfs from the belt, forming a low looped drapery, that ultimately is tied into a bow with ends. The scarf ends in the back meet under a chiffon bow and make a shawl-pointed finish at the bottom of the skirt.

Bodices and Sleeves. The bodices are, to all appearance, at one with the skirts and are fitted with soft chiffon, the full drapery being shaped back and went into the half low neck. The sleeves are fashioned from straight, chiffon scarfs, which reach nearly to the elbow and are then drawn back on each side into the neck of the bodice. The sleeves protrude from the shoulders sufficiently to leave room for the cross-pieces of net embroidered in silver. A round breast knot of roses in pink or a porchou are leading shades and a frock may be used to advantage on the left side of the bodice.

Waist and Chemises. The charm lies in the grace of the lines produced by the use of chiffon. In the beauty of color tones and the skilful touches of silver and the spray of flowers as a finish. For the culture, nothing is more effective than a narrow flit of silver and tiny side bunches of roses to be worn across the top of the head and amid the flat van-deux of hair.

Gloves and Ornaments. White gloves are to be worn to meet the half-sleeves. Pendants of pink or blue tourmalines, attached to a fine gold chain, are pretty neck ornaments, and satin slippers should repeat the color of the gown worn.

Popularity of Dark Tones. The popularity of dark color tones in street toilets and evening gowns is most noticeable this season. Both in silk and wool, blue-back or blue-cornflower are leading shades and recognized as such on the best authority. The idea that all black for evening wear is a thing of the past is extremely smart is understood by women who know how to dress well and who consequently feel that their wardrobe to be complete must include a black creation. So deeply implanted is the conviction that the darker the shade of color, the smarter the color, that even the young girls are wearing evening toilets of deep blue, emerald, violet or gray.

## Good Taste

What is good taste? It is something like "charm" in a story, a trait hard to define, but we recognize it at once when it is present; its absence nails and sickens us.

In dressing, good taste holds a position similar to that in other arts. In entertaining there are the so-called "canons of good taste" that make ill-bred actions impossible to the cultured classes, and in household decoration there is the unmistakable evidence of "good taste" that we hear of and that indicates the rank and education of the householder. In dressing there are hallmarks that distinguish and condemn.

Much of the dispute about taste arises through the accessory. A thing is not likely to be bad alone, but place the reasonable looking coat beside the most unreasonable of hats and choose the owner in an impossible collar or tie and see what their victim looks like. The cruel deed is not done for her; she is the author of her own defeat. Her observation is untrained, her eye uneducated.

While the charm and the science of good taste in dressing may not be didactically taught, there are helps by the way and by the wayside. It is an elusive study; each new case brought before the notice of the novice may disprove her lately acquired theories, but constant practice on the broad highway and in the drawing-room will train the eye and the hand as to the whys and wherefores of good dressing.

Self-study is a branch not to be scorned in this observation lesson. Before the long mirror may be made such personal comment and such thorough search that some good, and great good, must eventually come of it.

There is, too, within the boudoir and with no more foreign subject for study than the personal self, a positive right, a freedom, to make critical comment that approaches the unkind in more public places.

## Collars for Blouses

All imported models of separate blouses have collars of the material attached, while the waist be washed materials for morning wear or in chif-

fon and silk fabrics. Linen or lace standing turnovers are still much worn, but almost exclusively for sport- ing and exercising. Now it requires some thought and care to keep collars of thin materials in such order that the neck will always have that trim and neat look absolutely indispensable to smartness. The boning comes first, and this cannot be looked after with too great precision. A thin collar is always cut at least an inch higher than a stiff starched one, as the light material draws together somewhat when it is fastened. Use bones of a pale cream composition, washable and flexible and plied for sewing. These come in half-a-dozen lengths. Start two near the middle bottom edge at the front, slanting outwards so that they come well at either side of the throat at the top. From this point to the back of the neck, a perfectly straight line is ugly, an exaggerated point ridiculous. Halfway round place one of the bones upright, so that the top edge of the collar is raised from a quarter to a half inch. One bone is required for the back opening. Fancy waists always have some thin- ning to soften the top of the collar, but linen or lawn waists are often left with just a straight hem or fold against the throat, which is unbecom- ing and must be remedied. Tiny plait- ed frills of the material are much in vogue, but are not good except on a long, slender neck. Short necks and full faces should substitute flat folds of linen or lawn, which can be tucked in over the tops of the bones, and left in when the waist is washed.

Very pretty but more expensive is to fold the top of the collar in a wide heavy lace, such as Irish or Cluny. It can be put in straight around, as the boning will lift it sufficiently under the ears. These touches will add much to one's appearance. The bones I mention do not scratch the neck, but if they are not properly plan to fit either bone in a little pocket. Then, if it is preferred, they can be taken out when the waist is washed.

## Dainty Pincushions

Get the squares or oblongs of flax lace first and make the cushion after- ward. This is a most necessary cau- tion, because the square of flax is not to be found in every size; in fact, in very few sizes.

To be the daintiest gift imaginable the cushion should be covered with plain white satin; the flax should be per- fectly square.

Over the top and the bottom stretch and pin the flax square, and lace the two together by the use of a bodkin and with white satin ribbons of a size suggested by the openings in the flax. The right side of the ribbon should be kept continually on top, and the laces should cross each other, tying into full fluffy bows at each of the four corners.

Chiffon Bags. Quite wonderful and most beautiful are the lavender flower bags made as gifts and to hold the most delicate pieces of embroidery. They are chiffon, white with some rambling spray in pale lavender. The bag is shirred into a lavender covered circular bottom, and at the top, its twelve inch height, it is folded to provide material for a casing, folded over an embroidery hoop and sewed over it in casing shape.

There are neither strings nor rib- bons, but after the work is put into the casing, the bag is formed by the shirred-in hoop, the bag is tumbled as it is dropped from the hands. The twist incloses the work as securely as would a drawing.

Care of Gloves. When left gloves are worn the hands become very hot and cause the gloves to stiffen and shrink. French chalk will prove a good remedy.

The gloves should be put on as the tips of the fingers dipped in French chalk and rubbed gently one against the other, then finally rubbed with a soft duster. A little French chalk also be put in each finger.

It is a good plan when wearing rings under gloves to turn them with the stones toward the palm of the hand, this not only prevents marks, but is more comfortable than when the rings are worn the right way up.

Kid gloves should be removed by turning them over the hand and after- ward turned right side out, blown in- to, the creases smoothed out and finally put away in a glove box.

Nothing looks more untidy than to see any one wearing a pair of gloves with the fingertips protruding or the seams burst.

So, if you spy even a tiny hole, mend it with delay, and with fine cotton the same color as the kid. Never use silk, as it cuts.

Don't break off the cotton, but cut it, or you will draw the stitches too tightly together and make the seam uneven.

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